

VETERAN, AGED 4, LAUGHS AT BATTLE

New York Boy Says He Has Been Over Top More Times Than He Remembers.

WORRIED OVER LOST TEA

Shrapnel Annoying, but Not So Bad as Chiding of Officers.

Counting two months in the hospital, he was in the British army five months. He was of those who held a front line trench at Ypres five weeks without relief. With rifle or bomb he went over the top so many times that he lost count—four times in one boiling summer week. A speck of shrapnel pierced his right hand. A German's clubbed musket smashed his shoulder in a ruined house at St. Julian, and his chin snuffed off the German. He did a man's work, claims no more and no less. He was honorably discharged for reasons which will appear.

Nothing extraordinary about this. All right, then let him tell why he especially remembers his fourteenth birthday, July 24, 1917.

"You know the country around Ypres is pretty watery, and it had rained for seven days and nights. I was walking along a duck board. You know duck boards are the planks that they sink into the bog in the trenches, one plank on top of another, until there is a sort of a solid path. I was walking along a duck board. I was carrying a loose one, the other end flew up and I spilled into four feet of mud that was mostly water. Sympathy, Jeff, sings out my chum, Tiny Bradford, 'You been kicking' for four weeks about not having a bath, and here's hopin' you're satisfied now.' I swabbed the mud out of my eyes, went to the C. O.'s office, where there was a fire and they let me hang up my clothes and get them dry for the first time in an awful while. That's why I remember the day I was 14."

Perhaps Youngest in War.

Sydney Jaffe, a New York boy now back in New York, was perhaps the youngest soldier in the war. He enlisted and was accepted at 13 and was a British rifleman 145 days. There is no question of that. Official records prove it. The rest of the story is his own. British officers here call it incredible. But the boy sticks to it. He says the deadliest of all fighting fronts, the Ypres salient, was an old story to him before he was 14. And now, with that behind him, he is living with his mother at 380 East 164th street and clerking for an exemption board on the East Side, helping in another way to recruit the Army of Freedom.

His Story Begins Just Where He Began

When he told it to THE SUN yesterday, "I was born near London, and when I was 7 my father died of sickness, leaving me and my two brothers and two sisters. I was the youngest. In 1914 my mother moved us all to New York. I went to Public School 147, in East Broadway, and then started in Morris High School. I was pretty well satisfied until I took two days off to visit two friends—they were big lads—who were going to join the American army. They didn't say anything, but from all their talk I got to thinking it looked funny that I had come away from England just when the war started, when everybody should be going to the other way. Well, the next morning after I saw my two friends off I went to a British recruiting office here and enlisted. It was on June 2 last year and I was 13½ years old, but fairly big, and my voice had changed. [Jaffe is about 5 feet 6 inches tall now.]

Said He Was 18.

"I told 'em I was 18 and they took me. My mother told me to kick, but I thought I would be training in Canada for seven months I told her so. But the war would be over by then. But a week after I got to Canada I was grabbed for a draft check. I was sent to England and was sent to a training camp. I was in a Company, Sixth Battalion, the Rifle Brigade, and later in the Twelfth Battalion. From England I was sent to France. We were a French speaking regiment, then up the line to Calais and a day's march to Ypres. Gee, that was some march."

Sydney Jaffe Stripped as He Had Told It

and the astounded interviewer had to read him with, "Well, go on. What did you do at Ypres?"

"Oh," he said, in precise English, not of the East Side but of London. "We started doing our work, like in and out of the line and going over the top occasionally. It was summer and our bodies were nearly raw from sunburn. At one stretch we were in our trench for five weeks—no show at times relief was had and of course there was nothing to do but stay where you are till it comes. Well, after that the C. O. says this was in July, I think. Boys, you're out for a long rest now. We can go to-morrow and draw as much as you like."

I Drew Out 100 Francs and Spent a Week in Popovering with my Chum, Tiny Bradford, who was sent to the front.

"Then it was back to Ypres again and just as we got there another big attack started. When we went over it dawned the Germans were not there—they had evacuated their line; it was quite a retreat. I think we kept on for about four miles, at the town of St. Julian, which was badly battered. As they had left machine gun emplacements in the houses to protect their rear our company commander, Lieut. West, said:

"Boys, the Germans are trying to put one over by firing on us from those houses. It's up to you to go through the houses and protect the rest of the division."

Go Through the Houses.

"Tiny and I were ordered into a shack that had been a dwelling place but rather knocked about by shells. We went upstairs first and there was nobody there. Then we went down to the street floor and opened a door and came upon a German. He had a machine gun—it was a Lewis gun—and had stuck the muzzle through the shutter of the door in such a way that no one outside would know it was there. But the gun was jammed and he was working on it. He was a big Prussian thug."

"The shrapnel helmet always gave me a headache and when we went over I always managed to get rid of it, so I did not have it this time. I went up to the German, but he picked up a rifle and just managed to whirl it as a club when we closed. I got it on the shoulder and was knocked down. But good old Tiny Bradford got the German's eye the bayonet. No, he'll never see Prussia again."

U.S. MAY REVOKE \$40,000,000 GIFT

Government Inquires What States Did With School Funds Granted in 1836.

NEW JERSEY DISTURBED

Gloucester County Would Have to Mortgage Court House to Pay Its Share.

WOODBURY, N. J., Feb. 24.—Like the man who puts on an old suit that he hasn't worn for some time and has the delightful thrill of finding a stray greenback or coin stuck away in a pocket where he had forgotten all about it, Uncle Sam, in donning his old war again has poked his finger into his vest pocket and discovered a cool \$40,000,000 that had entirely slipped his memory since he tucked it away there for safekeeping eighty-two years ago.

Just now Uncle Sam is fondly wondering whether to add it to the big pile he has staked on the war game. That such is the case has come to public notice through the searching of the old records of Gloucester county by George N. Pierson, the veteran county clerk, following formal request from the Federal authorities as to how surplus revenue funds divided among the States and subdivided among the counties in 1836 have been invested.

Grant Made in 1836.

County Collector Pierson has dug up a complete record, which sets forth in 1836 Congress voted to divide among the various States surplus revenue amounting to \$40,000,000. The records have not been clear as to how this big surplus for that period was accumulated, but it is supposed that it came from war taxes or indemnities.

In Distributing this Money Congress

provided that it should be used for public school purposes and exacted a pledge from each State that its share of the money would be returned to the Federal Treasury should the nation ever need it badly enough to call it back.

It was planned that this money should

be paid in four installments, but the old Gloucester county records show the payment of only three of these installments. In that period, Gloucester county reached from the Delaware River to the Atlantic Ocean and included what are now Camden and Atlantic counties. As its share of the fund was subdivided by the State of New Jersey among the counties, Gloucester received approximately \$2,000,000. There were then sixteen counties in the State while now there are twenty-two.

When Atlantic county was created

out of the lower portion of Gloucester county in 1837 the State made up to the new county its portion of this special school fund. In 1847 Gloucester county again was divided and Camden county created. A commission was appointed to divide the funds and other property of the old county and Camden county got a portion of the original surplus revenue fund that had been paid over to the original large county of Gloucester.

First Installment Vanishes.

The records are muzzy as to what Gloucester county did with its first installment of this Government money. The board of freeholders of that period covered up the transaction so that there is no way of tracing the money. The county died with the State Treasury, however, a bond pledging to pay back its portion of the surplus revenue fund at the call of the Federal Government. The county records set forth that such bonds were filed by all of the old original sixteen counties, but the statement was made that none of the new counties created after that time had fulfilled this requirement.

The question therefore arises as to

whether the State of New Jersey can call in the full sum for which it stands pledged to the national Government, but for which it has some bonds and pledges from its power counties, should the Federal authorities see fit to call in this old loan at the time.

This same condition is said to be true

in other States which shared this \$40,000,000 in surplus revenue the distribution being made according to population.

In the case of Gloucester county,

the share of the fund was at first invested in bonded mortgages and the income devoted to school purposes. About the time of the building of the Court House, however, this fund seems to have been inextricably mixed with the general county funds. This was apparent under a special act of the Legislature, which provided that the county should raise by taxation the equivalent of the income of the fund on this special school fund. So far a good many years the county has been paying over to the school fund the sum of \$111,500, representing the annual interest of 6 per cent on approximately \$3,900,000.

Faces Bonds or Mortgages.

The fact that the public schools are the beneficiaries of the fund not only in Gloucester county but also in the rest of the State and in the other States which shared the \$40,000,000 fund, that the fund might be done to the educational systems by depriving them of this money, has deterred Uncle Sam from putting old mortgages into circulation by calling for the State to return the surplus revenue to the Federal Treasury.

School officials take this hopeful

view of the fact that the nation has not asked for the money since the pledges given by the States for the return of these funds either in the Mexican war, when shortly followed their distribution, nor in the civil war, when the Federal Treasury was at times hard pressed for funds. Neither was it touched during the Spanish American war.

Should this old surplus revenue fund

be called in Gloucester county would have to give a mortgage on the old Court House to front a special bond issue. It is believed that most of the counties in this and in other States that were in the Union in 1836 would be in similar straits.

WOMAN ROUTS THIEF WITH INK

Her Aim Good When She Finds Intruder in Bedding Room.

Two thieves found looting the home of her sister in Methuen were routed by Mrs. Philip Drinan of Haverhill, who reported yesterday after she pelted one with a bottle and smeared him with ink. The intruders escaped with two new suits of clothes, some money and a watch after they stopped to deposit some coins in a little girl's toy bank and drape a nude statue in one of her dresses.

As Mrs. Drinan and her sister-in-law,

Mrs. Pearl Beattie of Methuen, were walking with Mrs. Conrad Lewis two men entered the Lewis home in Methuen by a party window. Changing their old clothes for Mr. Lewis' new suits they took Mrs. Lewis' watch and opened a handbag owned by Mrs. Beattie. From the purse containing \$24 in currency and \$5 cents in change they stole the little girl's toy bank and the nude statue of Diana. The police got a meagre description of the thieves after they escaped through a window.

TRADE PARLEY WITH MEXICO.

Conference to Be Resumed To-day at Carranza's Capital.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 24.—Conference

will be resumed here to-morrow concerning the raising of the Federal States export restrictions against Mexico. Henry P. Fletcher, American Ambassador, and Rafael Nieto, acting Secretary of the Treasury, arrived today from Washington, where an agreement was reached subject to President Carranza's approval. Gen. Salvador Alvarado, formerly Governor of Yucatan, also attended the conference, presumably in relation to the shipments of sugar to the United States.

According to Senator Nieto, the preliminary

agreement provides that the United States shall allow \$15,000,000 American gold to enter Mexico, and in return Mexico will remove certain unpopular transport restrictions on mine products. Senator Nieto also announced the establishment of a credit of \$25,000,000.

What arrangements have been made

regarding the admission of foodstuffs into Mexico has not been announced, but J. A. McCarthy, Mexico city banker, has been seen here representing the United States Food Administrator in Mexico, conferred to-day with the National Food Commission.

COL. HINE LEAVES THE FIGHTING 69TH

He Is Assigned to Transportation Department of Pershing's Army.

BARKER SUCCEEDS HIM

He Is West Pointer and Has Fine Military Record.

The Army and Navy Journal announces in its edition of yesterday that Charles De Lano Hine has been succeeded by John W. Barker as Colonel of the 165th Infantry (formerly the Sixty-ninth New York), now in France as a portion of the Rainbow Division. The information came in a letter to the editor from an army officer in France. The Army and Navy Journal adds:

"Col. Hine, who is an expert in railroad

work, has been assigned to duty in the transportation department of the American Expeditionary Forces, for which by his long association with railroads he is especially well qualified. Col. Barker is a graduate of the U. S. M. A. class of 1894, and is known as an all-around efficient officer. As a Lieutenant in the Third Infantry he took part in the Santiago campaign, battle of El Caney and the siege of San Juan.

Col. Barker served with his regiment

in the Third Infantry in Philippine campaigns and in effecting the disarmament of some Moros he was wounded in the hip by a bullet from a rifle in the hands of a Moro. The Moro who fired the shot was killed. Col. Barker is a graduate of the U. S. M. A. class of 1894, and is known as an all-around efficient officer. As a Lieutenant in the Third Infantry he took part in the Santiago campaign, battle of El Caney and the siege of San Juan.

TOWN'S POSTMASTER 52 YEARS.

Joshua Griffith, 52, of Ludingtonville Decides to Retire.

First selected by President Lincoln and reappointed by every President since, Postmaster Joshua Griffith of Ludingtonville, Putnam county, has at last retired from the mail service after more than fifty-two years in office. Mr. Griffith, who is 52 years old, handled mail for soldiers in the civil war.

When Griffith decided that he would

leave the United States, he retired from office and has just established rural free delivery out of Holmes. For a while Griffith hoped to get the rural service winding up. He enjoys excellent health.

6 Billions a year Depend On Ships

6 billion dollars' worth of the goods America produced in 1917 was sold overseas.

What made this possible?

Ships!

Is it any wonder that ship-building

and the shipping industry have become the vital factor in America's commercial progress? Nautical men and alert business men must follow the news of ship-building and shipping—and the progress of marine architecture, navigation, port development, and inland waterways.

Send them with the story—exteriors,

interiors, and a floor plan if you have it.

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A. S. HOUGHTON RESIGNS.

W. S. Carpenter to Be Secretary of Conservation Commission.

ALBANY, Feb. 24.—The resignation of A. S. Houghton as secretary of the Conservation Commission, to take effect to-morrow, is announced by Conservation Commissioner George D. Pratt. Mr. Houghton has been secretary of the commission since April, 1915, and is now returning to New York to resume the practice of law.

In announcing Mr. Houghton's resignation

Commissioner Pratt said that Mr. Houghton had given up his law practice at a great personal sacrifice to take the position of secretary of the Conservation Commission in order that he might cooperate with Commissioner Pratt in putting into effect many of the policies on which they have worked together for many years.

Commissioner Pratt has announced the

promotion of Warwick S. Carpenter, who has been confidential secretary and editor of the commission since June, 1915, to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Houghton.

Under and pursuant to the Laws of the State of New York, as provided

in Chapter 4 of the laws of 1918, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL CONCERNED, that the manufacture and sale of artificial ice is prohibited on and after March 1, 1918, in the City of New York, on Long Island, and in the counties bordering on the Hudson River up to and including the Counties of Albany and Rensselaer. No person, partnership or corporation shall engage in the business of manufacturing, selling and delivering artificial ice in any city of more than one million inhabitants after March 1, 1918, and before February 1, 1919, before first obtaining a license so to do to be issued by the Ice Comptroller in the form prescribed by him.

This notice is given, therefore, to all persons interested in order that they

may make application, in writing, to the Ice Comptroller at his office, Room 3233, 120 Broadway. Such applications must be made by mail to the undersigned.

B. O. DELLE, Ice Comptroller.

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